

ords of all investigations show that streptococcal disease was not an important problem in the south and that rheumatic fever occurred less frequently in this area.

Dr. Coburn's book will not be of great interest to the practitioner but contains a wealth of information for the epidemiologist and others interested in infectious disease. It should also be required reading for all those responsible for the administration of medical services in the armed forces should mobilization of troops on a large scale again be necessary.

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**FUNDAMENTALS OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY**, a Text-book of Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases. By Lawrence R. Boies, M.D., Clinical Professor of Otolaryngology, University of Minnesota Medical School, and Associates. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$6.50.

The first few sentences of the preface read, "This book is the outgrowth of a plan for teaching the undergraduate medical student the fundamentals of otolaryngology. As a textbook it is not only designed to offer this basic instruction to the student but also to provide fundamental information to the physician who is not a specialist. It is not intended as a complete reference book." The authors have made a sincere effort to keep the volume within these stated limits and have achieved more than the expected success. They are to be commended for a product that is singularly free from recapitulation, rewriting or direct incorporation as a whole or in part of the many outmoded procedures, practices and theories that too often comprise up to one-third of the average text. This is refreshing. Whether or not the reviewer agrees with or employs implicitly or explicitly—and he does not—the theoretical expositions, method of diagnosis and proposed therapy, whether it be medical or surgical, would be beside the point were it not for the fact that such concord or disagreement acts as a baseline for the following criticisms and commendations. However, it is freely admitted that should every medical student and physician who is not a specialist have available and use intelligently the information available in this volume the otolaryngologic problems would be handled in a far more satisfactory manner than is the present custom.

The book is divided into three approximately equal sections: Part I, The Ear; Part II, The Nose; and Part III, The Throat. The section on the ear is good except for Chapter IX on Vertigo that seems somewhat involved for the novice and general practitioner. One has to read through several paragraphs to find that the direction of nystagmus is designated as being in accord with the quick component. The description of the internal workings and cost of the mechanical aids to hearing in Chapter X is interesting but not sufficiently detailed to permit discussion of the subject with the detail man, intelligent evaluation of the advertising claims or of real value to posterity.

Part II devoted to the nose is excellent in all respects. Chapter XV that deals with chronic nasal obstruction could be improved by at least mentioning several of the general conditions whose local manifestations produce nasal obstruction. The chapters devoted to the accessory nasal sinuses are adequate and present the modern attitude of conservation in diagnosis, therapy and surgery. Chapter XIX—Epistaxis—could be enlarged by at least 50 per cent and still not devote an unwarranted amount of space to this subject. This could be done at the expense of the following chapter on Atrophic Rhinitis.

Part III—The Throat—irritates one in the very first chapter (XXII) by referring the reader to subsequent chapters for details in regard to the nasopharynx and retropharynx. Chapter XXVII—Hoarseness—devotes most of its contents to paralyses and rather skims over the more common and more frequently encountered causes for hoarseness. Chapter

XXX in discussing anesthesia for esophagoscopy states, "Local anesthesia for adults is quite satisfactory. The procedure is usually surprisingly comfortable for the patient." Before one swallows this statement one should try an esophagoscope. Chapter XXXII—Prescription and Therapeutic Procedures—offers ground for considerable differences of opinion. The reviewer is wholly opposed to the use of an all glass laryngeal syringe even in the hands of the expert. It frequently happens that the prescriptions are outmoded by the time the book comes off the press.

In summary it is an excellent textbook. It is well made, printed in good type on gloss paper and contains numerous clear though in some instances poorly selected illustrations. The table of contents is extensive and adequate. The index is satisfactory. It is recommended to not only the direct objectives—the medical student and the practitioner who is not a specialist—but to all otolaryngologists.

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**OPERATIONS OF GENERAL SURGERY**. By Thomas G. Orr, M.D., Professor of Surgery, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kansas, Second Edition. With 1700 Step-by-Step Illustrations on 721 Figures. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$13.50.

The second edition of this book has numerous additions in each chapter. All of the newer developments in cardiovascular surgery have been added, and the techniques for esophagectomy and total gastrectomy are clearly described. A good balance between description and illustration has been obtained, so that it is quite easy to visualize the main technical points of each section. The author has selected the most acceptable methods of dealing with the common surgical problems, but he will find many who disagree with his statements about local excision of gastric ulcer. The volume has been devised for the beginner as well as the practicing general surgeon, and for both it will be found useful.

It should prove to be an excellent quick reference book for the busy surgeon.

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**MYCOSES AND PRACTICAL MYCOLOGY, A Handbook for Students and Practitioners**. By N. Gohar, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), Assistant Professor, Parasitology and Mycology, Department of Clinical Pathology, Kasr El Ainy Faculty of Medicine, Fouad I University, Cairo, Egypt. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1948. \$6.00.

Increased interest in fungus disease has been reflected by the publication in recent years of several texts describing this group of infectious agents and the diseases caused by them. The present work, by an English author, is the least satisfactory of those that have come to the attention of the reviewer. The classifications used seemed needlessly complex. More than 20 species of pathogenic actinomycetes are described. For clinical purposes, segregation of these organisms into the anaerobic and the aerobic (nocardia) types is entirely adequate. The discussion of coccidioidomycosis is entirely inadequate and indicates that the author has not seen many of the studies published in this country in the last ten years. Histoplasmosis is mentioned but its possible association with nontuberculous calcification of the lung has been omitted. Ten pages have been devoted to a discussion of sprue, which the author admits is probably not a disorder resulting from infection of the gastrointestinal tract by monilia (Candida), and similarly, considerable space is devoted to fungus infections of the eyes, ears, and genitourinary tract. These are probably not of sufficient clinical importance to require such extensive treatment.

The last half of the book is devoted to a general discussion of fungus disease of the skin, which the reviewer did not feel qualified to discuss in detail. The etiological agents are segregated into a bewildering number of species, so many